



Minutes of the Newcastle Higher Community Council meeting held by video conference via Zoom on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins: Presided

Present (4)

Councillors, Marged Griffiths, Meryl Wilkins, Heidi Bennett, James Radcliffe.

Clerk, Adam Davies

1. To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Hussain
2. To receive declarations of Interests (if any) of Members in respect of the business to be transacted

Cllr Meryl Wilkins made a declaration relating to her personal interest in the following subject; Street Naming of the Ilanmoor homes development Parc Tondy, Merthyr Mawr Estate land. Pen Y Fai Common. Cllr Meryl Wilkins' full list of declarations of interests can be found on the Councils website.

Cllr James Radcliffe declared an interest relating to Planning due to his appointment on Bridgend County Borough Council Planning Committee.

3. To confirm and sign minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th July 2021

Resolved:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20th July 2021 were confirmed and signed.
Proposed by Cllr Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Griffiths.

4. To consider matters arising from the Council meeting on 20th July 2021

11. The Clerk contacted PCSO Janine who informed the Council that there is currently no PCSO for Pen Y Fai and Aberkenfig. The Clerk requested if she would monitor Bridgend Rd, and Penyfai Rd, Aberkenfig due to the current road traffic issues.

16. The Clerk informed the Council that the LDP response was sent to BCBC for their consideration.

5. To receive reports from Community Associations

Claudette from Tondy and Aberkenfig Community Association informed the Council that they were grateful for the installation of the Defibrillator in Pentre Felin. ATCA informed the Council that they have received a number of complaints for Aberkenfig square and passed this onto the Council. Claudette noted that as a Councillor to Ynysawdre Community Council, they are considering planting more trees within its wards and wondered if this would be something our Council would also consider.

Cllr Griffiths on behalf of PenY Fai Community Association informed the Council of the success of litter picks within Pen Y Fai which are on the first Sunday of the month, weather dependent. Cllr Griffiths informed the Council the PVCA are undertaking a survey which will be setup in the coming weeks and they welcomed any responses.

6. To receive questions or comments from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

7. To review standing orders

Cllr Bennett informed the Council that she was unable to follow up on this matter and will seek advice from One Voice Wales.

8. To receive a Maintenance report

a. Pheasant Field

The Clerk informed the Council that our contractor Crown Garden services were unable to cut the field due to staffing issues. HM Garden services were contacted to complete a cut for the Junior Football to use the field on Fridays. The Council was requested to accept an extra cut to the value of £100 plus VAT for the work. Councillors unanimously agreed.

b. To decide on a solicitor for the lease registration at the land registry

Cllr Wilkins declared an interest regarding the Pheasant field.

Due to this the Council was unable to speak on this point due to being inquorate. This matter was deferred to the next Council meeting.

c. Rights of Way

The Clerk informed the Council that a map of the Rights of Way has been obtained. The Council was informed that there is a £900 grant provided to the Council each year to maintain the footpaths within the Council wards. Cllr Bennett suggested that the Council ask for comments from local residents regarding the current state of the footpaths.

Councillors discussed the current closure of a footpath by Coleman Vale and that the Council in recent times have undertaken substantial maintenance of the footpath and wishes it to be put back in good repair.

Resolved

Cllr Bennett and Griffiths agreed to look at the footpaths and provide feedback within the next Council meeting. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Rights of Way to discuss if the Council is to undertake maintenance of the rights of way on private land.

9. To discuss NHCC current assets

a. Tree survey at the Woodland in Aberkenfig.

The Clerk informed the Council that no quotes have been received to date.

Resolved

The Clerk to contact Natural Resources Wales to enquire about contractors.

10. To confirm casual vacancy for the Aberkenfig Ward

The Clerk informed the Council that resignation had been received from Councillor Phillip Lathey.

Resolved:

A Casual Vacancy request has been sent to BCBC, once received a notice of vacancy will be advertised online and within the Council's notice board.

11. To receive co-option papers for Councillor vacancies

The Clerk provided Co-option papers from one member of the public. Members of the public were removed and the Council discussed the application received.

The Council voted unanimously to Co-Opt Jane Gebbie to Newcastle Higher Community Councils Aberkenfig Ward.

Resolved:

The Clerk will make the necessary declarations of acceptance paperwork to Jane in the coming days.

The Council suggested the Clerk look into local Colleges and Schools and enquire if they provide politics studies to attempt to encourage younger members to join the Council.

12. Finance

(a) To receive accounts for payment

	£
Payroll Graham Paul	36.00
BCBC Bus Shelter cleaning	59.63
Centregreat	312.00
H M Garden Services (Extra Cut)	120.00
Quarterly Reimbursements Clerk	99.60
Quarterly Salary Clerk Salary	****
Clerk Tax Contributions (Information sent to Chair and Deputy Chair)	****

The Council accepted these payments.

(b) To note bank reconciliation

The Council was provided with a bank reconciliations to the end of August 2021

Cllr Bennett proposed to accept the reconciliation as correct and accurate seconded by Cllr Griffiths.

13. To Consider Planning Applications

The Council noted the following applications made, with no objections:

P/21/777/FUL

10 Clos Y Talcen Penyfai CF31 4BU

Conversion of garage to habitable room and first floor side extension above

P/21/776/FUL

121 Graham Avenue Penyfai CF31 4NP

Single storey front extension and side dormer loft extension

14. To receive BCBC Members Reports

(a) Cllr Altaf Hussain

Cllr Hussain was unable to attend

(b) Cllr James Radcliffe

i. Cllr Radcliffe informed the Council that there have been a number of reports of anti-social behaviour at closing time at pubs within Aberkenfig. Cllr Radcliffe reiterates that if anyone sees any anti-social behaviour please report this to the relevant authorities.

ii. Cllr Radcliffe noted that an issue regarding a music licence has now been resolved, stating that a local premises believed they had the correct licence to play loud music but this was incorrect and has now been rectified.

15. To receive Reports from Councillors

Cllr Bennett informed the Council that she has received a complaint regarding overhanging branches at Plas Ty Mawr. Cllr Bennett has approached BCBC requesting that it be looked at.

Cllr Bennett has contacted Go Safe regarding Aberkenfig Road. Go Safe have kindly said they will monitor the area although they are unable to provide details of when this may take place.

Cllr Bennett discussed the issue of Pen Y Fai Road, that it is currently used by users who use it as a race track. Cllr Bennett has contacted BCBC to enquire if the route is used by busses and if not then would it be possible to fence off the route to discourage users illegally using the road.

The Council discussed its interest in arranging Christmas Lights for Pentre Felin and other parts of the Council wards. Due to this not being on the agenda, the Council was unable to make any decisions.

16. Correspondence

1. Probation Service

Conversation with the probation service to support the clean up of Aberkenfig Square and Woodland.

2. Crown Garden Services

Crown Garden services reported that they are dealing with a number of illnesses within their organization and are struggling to meet current cutting demand. They have confirmed to cut the field during the week of 6th September.

3. Centregreat

Centregreat has quoted for work to be completed at the All Saints Church in Pen Y Fai to remove a wire from a Tree. He has kindly offered their services to install the Defibrillator in Pentre Felin for free.

4. PCSO

The Clerk attended Aberkenfig Police Station to enquire about our local PCSO, The Clerk was informed that there is currently no permanent PCSO for this area.

5. Tondu and Aberkenfig Association

Number of images were provided to the clerk regarding the current state of Aberkenfig Square.

6. Pen Y Fai Postcard

The Pen Y Fai Postcard requested if the Council had any news it would like to share. The Clerk informed the Postcard that the Council had taken on the Pheasant field. They invite further responses from the community Councillors.

7. Aberkenfig speeding /parking issues

Cllr Bennett discussed her concerns regarding the current issues in Aberkenfig.

8. Audit Wales

Audit items were sent at the start of August. An email has been received requesting further information for the clerk to respond.

17. To discuss Clerks Paternity Leave. (Closed session)

The Clerk informed the Council that he is expecting a baby at the start of January. Due to this he would like to request 2 weeks paternity leave as stated within his contract and 2 weeks paid holidays to cover a month from the date of the child's birth.

The Clerk requested the Council to decide if it would like to meet in January and employ a temporary Clerk or miss a meeting due to these circumstances.

Resolved:

The Council agreed to miss a meeting for January subject to all budgeting and precept meetings being processed during the month of December.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 21:00p.m. The next meeting would be via video link, on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7:30pm.